
State of Ohio
Judiciary/Supreme Court

Role and Overview

The Judiciary/Supreme Court (JSC) represents the third branch of Ohio government as established by Article IV of the Ohio Constitution. The Judiciary consists of all 708 judges of the state who preside over cases in the trial and appellate courts, and in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in the state on questions of Ohio law and the Ohio Constitution. The Judiciary/Supreme Court's total General Revenue Fund budget is \$122.9 million for fiscal year 2006.

The Judiciary portion of the budget is \$96.5 million. Approximately \$76.8 million is used to pay the full salaries of Ohio's 68 appellate judges; a substantial portion of the salaries for all judges of the 88 county courts of common pleas (general division, juvenile division, probate division, and domestic relations division); and the state's share of salaries for municipal and county court judges, and county clerks of court. The remaining \$19.6 million in the Judiciary portion of the budget is used to pay the salaries for the support staff of the state's 12 courts of appeals.

The Supreme Court portion of the budget is \$25.2 million. It is used to pay for the operation of the Supreme Court including the salaries for the justices and staff, the operation and maintenance of the Ohio Judicial Center at 65 South Front Street which is the home to the Supreme Court, Court of Claims, and the Judicial Conference, and to provide programs for the benefit of the trial and appellate courts throughout the state.

Special purpose appropriations are also included in the Judiciary/Supreme Court budget for the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, the Ohio Center for Law Related Education, and the Commission for Legal Education Opportunity. The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission is a 24-member body created by section 181.21 of the Revised Code to study the state's sentencing laws, recommend comprehensive sentencing plans to the General Assembly, and to advise legislative committees and members when bills that affect criminal sentencing are considered and enacted. The Ohio Center for Law Related Education provides legal educational programs to Ohio schoolchildren including the Ohio Mock Trial program. The Commission for Legal Education Opportunity is established to provide an intensive course of study designed to assist low-income and educationally disadvantaged college graduates for law school education, including the provision of tuition and an annual stipend.

Additionally, special revenue funds are appropriated as part of the budget for grants, judicial education, continuing legal education, bar admissions, and attorney registration. Continuing legal education, bar admission, and attorney registration fees support annual appropriations of approximately \$6.1 million and fund about 52 legal and support positions at the Supreme Court.

Additional information about the Judiciary/Supreme Court is available at <http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/>.

Executive Priorities for the Judiciary/Supreme Court

- Represent the third branch of Ohio government.

As required by Section 107.03(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, the Governor has made no alterations to the funding requests of agencies of the judicial branch of government. Recommended amounts are as requested by the agency.

Judiciary/Supreme Court

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004	ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
						FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	95,703	98,210	105,630	118,974	12.6	122,892	3.3	128,137	4.3
General Services Fund Group	131	177	104	129	24.6	130	.8	130	.0
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	516	572	451	1,360	201.3	848	(37.7)	861	1.6
State Special Revenue Fund Group	3,245	3,555	4,019	5,022	25.0	5,160	2.7	5,314	3.0
TOTAL	99,595	102,514	110,204	125,485	13.9	129,030	2.8	134,442	4.2

(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	FY 2002	ACTUAL FY 2003	FY 2004	ESTIMATE FY 2005	% CHANGE FY 04-05	RECOMMENDED			
						FY 2006	% CHANGE	FY 2007	% CHANGE
Personal Services	92,748	95,698	100,601	112,991	12.3	117,677	4.1	123,106	4.6
Purchased Services	1,622	1,563	1,915	2,845	48.6	2,361	(17.0)	2,490	5.4
Maintenance	2,328	2,871	4,131	6,498	57.3	4,547	(30.0)	4,735	4.1
Equipment	1,866	1,619	2,885	2,030	(29.7)	3,085	52.0	3,022	(2.0)
Subsidy	997	711	644	1,081	67.7	1,278	18.3	1,010	(21.0)
Transfer & Other	33	53	27	40	48.9	81	101.6	80	(1.2)
TOTAL	99,595	102,514	110,204	125,485	13.9	129,030	2.8	134,442	4.2

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Judiciary/Supreme Court

This program series includes the judiciary branch of government including the Supreme Court.

Program 01.01: Judiciary/Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is established by Article IV, Section 1 of the Ohio Constitution. Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution sets the size of the court and outlines its jurisdiction. Article IV, Section 5 of the Constitution grants rule making and other authority to the court. The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio. Most of its cases are appeals from the 12 district courts of appeals.

Judiciary/Supreme Court

What the Budget Buys:

- Continues the current staffing levels of 1,268 and allows for the addition of seven staff in fiscal year 2006 and six in fiscal year 2007. The majority of these positions are for Common Pleas and Municipal/County judges;
- Provides for the pass-through expenses of courts of appeals and other courts within the judiciary system. JSC funds, in part, costs for local county and municipal judges at a rate set in statute. These pass-through expenses account for seventy-nine percent of the budget; and
- Funds operational, maintenance, and security costs for the Ohio Judicial Center.

FUND GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	RECOMMENDED	
				FY 2006	FY 2007
GRF	GRF	005-321	Operating Exp-Judiciary/Supreme Ct	121,661,980	126,300,227
GRF	GRF	005-401	State Criminal Sentencing Council	328,676	343,730
GRF	GRF	005-406	Law-Related Education	216,131	222,615
GRF	GRF	005-502	Comm.for Legal Education Opportunity	685,000	1,270,000
GSF	672	005-601	Continuing Judicial Education	130,000	130,000
FED	3J0	005-603	Federal Grants	848,070	861,382
SSR	4C8	005-605	Attorney Registration	3,169,774	3,264,867
SSR	5T8	005-609	Sentencing Commission Grants	10,000	10,000
SSR	6A8	005-606	Supreme Court Admissions	1,410,718	1,453,042
SSR	643	005-607	Commission on Cont Legal Ed	569,203	586,261
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				129,029,552	134,442,124

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - Judiciary/Supreme Court

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2002 ACTUAL	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ESTIMATE	FY 2006 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2007 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	005-321	Operating Exp-Judiciary/Supreme Ct	94,996,070	97,725,993	105,170,327	118,401,294	121,661,980	2.8	126,300,227	3.8
GRF	005-401	State Criminal Sentencing Council	289,530	280,145	249,517	356,371	328,676	(7.8)	343,730	4.6
GRF	005-402	Task Force on Family Law & Children	2,405	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
GRF	005-406	Law-Related Education	197,790	203,724	209,836	216,131	216,131	.0	222,615	3.0
GRF	005-502	Comm.for Legal Edu. Opportunity	0	0	0	0	685,000	.0	1,270,000	85.4
GRF	010-321	Supreme Court Operating Exp	216,948	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			95,702,743	98,209,862	105,629,680	118,973,796	122,891,787	3.3	128,136,572	4.3
5Q7	005-608	Court Security Operations Manual	30,764	0	0	0	0	.0	0	.0
672	005-601	Continuing Judicial Education	100,042	176,799	103,561	129,000	130,000	.8	130,000	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			130,806	176,799	103,561	129,000	130,000	.8	130,000	.0
3J0	005-603	Federal Grants	516,074	572,252	451,486	1,360,404	848,070	(37.7)	861,382	1.6
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			516,074	572,252	451,486	1,360,404	848,070	(37.7)	861,382	1.6
4C8	005-605	Attorney Registration	1,928,195	2,147,137	2,517,114	3,077,450	3,169,774	3.0	3,264,867	3.0
5T8	005-609	Sentencing Commission Grants	0	0	44,068	89,767	10,000	(88.9)	10,000	.0
6A8	005-606	Supreme Court Admissions	851,197	925,238	976,761	1,267,428	1,410,718	11.3	1,453,042	3.0
643	005-607	Commission on Cont Legal Ed	465,611	482,745	480,895	587,210	569,203	(3.1)	586,261	3.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			3,245,003	3,555,120	4,018,838	5,021,855	5,159,695	2.7	5,314,170	3.0
TOTAL The Judiciary/Supreme Court			99,594,626	102,514,033	110,203,565	125,485,055	129,029,552	2.8	134,442,124	4.2